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Testimony in Support of
HJ 65, RESOLUTION MEMORIALIZING CONGRESS TO ABIDE BY THE TENTH AMENDMENT
Government Administration and Elections Committee
March 17, 2010

Chairman Slossberg, Chairman Spallone, Ranking Member McLachlan, Ranking Member Hetherington, and members of the Government Administration and Elections Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify today in support of HJ 65, RESOLUTION MEMORIALIZING CONGRESS TO ABIDE BY THE TENTH AMENDMENT.

The Tenth Amendment, while ratified in 1791 and clear in its intent, has been under assault by an increasingly expanded federal government over the course of the last several decades. It was designed to protect the rights of individual states from an unchecked centralized power, but has been interpreted and applied differently by courts, Presidents and Congresses. I believe we need to go back to the original intent of our Founding Fathers, who feared a large centralized authority, and abide by the very simple terms of the Tenth Amendment:

The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people.

These words make it abundantly clear that those powers not expressly enumerated in the Constitution are reserved for the states. And yet, the federal government has increased its size, scope and influence into matters that had previously been the province of states. In many ways, state governments have become merely instruments of the federal government. Tenth Amendment initiatives are sweeping throughout state legislatures to stem this tide of federal intrusion. It is time for our state, the Constitution State, to reassert our rights and say 'no' to an overzealous federal government that has overstepped its authority.

Thank you again for the opportunity to speak in favor of HJ 65.